



**Marine Battle Color Detachment arrives**  
**Page 3**

Silent Drill Platoon, Drum and Bugle Corps, Color Guard begin annual training here



**First Osprey crew chiefs graduate**  
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Six Marines from first activated Osprey squadron pass final nine-month course



**Station runner makes tracks to nationals**  
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Sailor makes history in All-Marine race, qualifies for All-Navy cross country team

Serving Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona



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**Mass casualty drill tests station’s response capabilities**



Photo by Cpl. Matthew Rainey

**Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines carry away Lance Cpl. Charlie Vega, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron mock victim, from the scene of a simulated aircraft crash on the station’s flightline during the station’s mass casualty drill Feb. 9. Vega, a native of Cicero, Ill., pretended to have suffered a broken leg in the incident.**

**Cpl. Matthew Rainey**  
Combat Correspondent

Firefighters and emergency medical personnel rushed to the aid of Marines who acted as victims during a mass casualty drill on station Feb. 9.

In order to host the 2006 Yuma Air Show, the station was required to test itself and local departments to see how prepared they are to work together in case of an emergency.

“We coordinated with all the mutual aid organizations, everyone who was going to be an evaluator for the exercise and all the individuals who were going to take part in the incident,” said exercise coordinator Warrant Officer Joe Szewczyk, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Headquarters and Headquarters Sqaudron. “Quite a few people come together to support when something like this happens.

“This is basically a training evaluation to see how all the organizations could come onto the base in a mutual aid situation and assist us,” Szewczyk explained. “This drill ensures that if there is an actual incident during the air show and we have a mass casualty situation on the air station, the emergency response runs smoothly and that all our organizations can communicate together. It’s a prerequisite for the air station (in order) to host the air show.”

A variety of departments participated in the drill, increasing familiarity between all the units involved.

“We had the Yuma Fire Department, Rural Metro Fire Department, the Somerton Fire Department, Provost Marshal’s Officer,ARFF and (the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Fire Department) respond to the incident out here,” said David Sears, emergency medical services incident commander.

Of all the people involved, the Marines of ARFF were the first on the scene.

“Our response time to the accident was good,” said Szewczyk. “I may be a little biased with the crash crew guys, but our response time on the air field is really quick. We can be anywhere on the air field in two minutes and that’s about a minute faster than we are supposed to be.”

The Marines at ARFF know that their quickness is due to a lot of practice in a time-tested system that works.

See Drill page 3

**Marines, K-9s show off skills at local Yuma school**



Photo by Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

**Lance Cpl. Justin Shettleroe, K-9 handler, Provost Marshal’s Office, takes a bite from Hexa, military working dog, during a K-9 demonstration at Centennial Middle School Feb. 8 as a part of aggression training where dogs practice biting would-be suspects. The K-9 handlers also ran the dogs through an obstacle course during the demonstration.**

**Cpl. Giovanni Lobello**  
Combat Correspondent

The Provost Marshal’s Office K-9 Marines and their dogs visited Yuma’s Centennial Middle School Feb. 8 to provide law enforcement education for students in the eighth graders.

The Marines started the demonstration with an example of a hot stop. A hot stop consists of the K-9 handler finding himself in potential danger, then using a

remote control device to release the dog from the vehicle, allowing the dog to come to his aid.

The K-9 handlers also performed the aggression-type training, in which the dog bites a would-be suspect in a controlled environment, as well as running the dogs through an obstacle course.

The obstacle course consists of walls, a window and a catwalk, simulating different obstacles dogs might run into on the job, said Cpl. Elijah S. Prudhome, K-9 handler with PMO.

After taking some questions from the

students, the K-9 handlers provided the children with a chance to test their speed against one of the dogs in a 30-yard dash.

“At first, I actually thought I could beat the dog,” said Greg Clark, eighth grade student at Centennial Middle School. “After I saw the time the dog put up, I knew there was no way I could beat him. The dogs were a lot quicker than I expected. I would never think of trying to outrun one of those dogs.”

See K-9 page 4

**MWSS-371 runs an anniversary celebration**

**Rear road guards of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 Support Company watch the backs of their fellow Marines while running along County 14th Street toward the Cannon Air Defense Complex, located south east of the air station, Feb. 3. Support Company took the 7-mile run from the station to the complex in order to celebrate the one-year anniversary of their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**



Photo by Cpl. Michael Nease

**VMA-513 holds pre-deployment expo**

**Lance Cpl. Brian J. Holloran**  
Combat Correspondent

Marine Attack Squadron 513 held a pre-deployment exposition Feb. 7 at the Sonoran Pueblo Consolidated Club.

All the squadron Marines who are scheduled to deploy to Al Asad, as well as the detachment of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 Marines, who are also going, attended the expo.

“The expo was not just for the Marines,” said Maj. Eric Austin, executive officer of VMA- 513. “We encouraged all the Marines to bring their spouses and children. We want to inform the whole family on what is going to be happening in the upcoming months.”

The expo offered information from numerous organizations

throughout the military and civilian world.

“The information showcased at the expo came from all different sources,” said Jody Senecal, VMA-513 Key volunteer coordinator and wife of a deploying Marine. “Usually, all the information in the expo is force fed to the Marines during a brief. With the expo, Marines and their families get a chance to see the faces that will help them. They also get the chance to talk face-to-face and ask questions.”

There was a booth from consolidated personnel administration center to show Marines and their families an estimate of the deployed Marines’ wages.

The Base Legal Department was also present to help ensure deploying Marines have completed both their wills and powers of attorney, in case the worse happens.

See Expo page 4



OPINION

Deploying cements brotherhood

Lance Cpl. Brian J. Holloran  
Combat Correspondent

After finishing 13 hellish weeks of Marine Corps recruit training and four more weeks of Marine Combat Training where Marines learn all the tools necessary to be able to call themselves a warrior, most Marines can't help but arrive at their military occupational specialty school feeling all motivated and "Ooohrah, Marine Corps!" and ready for any type of deployment.

During their MOS school, many Marines may lose a little of that motivation, but still retain that strong sense of pride, dedication and willingness to do just about anything for the Corps. Even if Marines aren't totally motivated, most still retain the willingness to put themselves in harm's way just to keep a fellow Marine out of it.

One aspect of Corps life that the Marine Corps drills into the heads of every single recruit who walks onto Parris Island or through the gates of Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego is that they are a part of something bigger and greater than themselves.

They ensure that these lowly recruits grasp the fact that the Marine Corps has been around well before they were born, and it will remain well after they are put to rest. Every drill instructor in the Marine Corps makes sure that the recruits under their charge realize how important the "brotherhood" mentality in the Corps is and that it is every Marine's job, whether they are in for 20 years or they hang it up after four, to uphold and improve upon these traditions.

What some Marines may never get the chance to realize is that those drill instructors have succeeded and every single one of the stories they told about tradition have somehow woven

themselves into a Marine's subconscious. Many Marines have that dedication instilled inside them, that willingness to do nearly anything for their fellow Marines.

This sentiment has never been more evident than in today's war environment.

Today's Marines are being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan on a regular basis and are remaining there for extended periods of time; some for over a year. Still, many Marines volunteer for deployment overseas and offer themselves as replacements for those of you who have been there longest.

Personally, I don't think that a deployment to Iraq is anything amazingly great, nor do I think it is a terribly frightening experience; it simply is what it is.

In my eyes, it's the same as if I were an employee of McDonald's and one day I came into work and my boss told me that next week I would be working at the McDonalds on the other side of town. To me, it's the same thing; it is just part of the job.

Now, before my indifference to deployment offends any Marines out there, let me just say that I am deploying with Marine Attack Squadron 513 this month, probably right around the time you're reading this, to Al Asad Air Base.

While I can't truly say that I have found a motivated "Oohrah, Let's get some!" attitude somewhere inside me about going

over to Iraq, I am glad that I am going to spend some time there because that means one more Marine can come home and spend more time with his family.

Some of you may think I'm being cheesy or cliché, but I really mean it. I would gladly go to Iraq, or anywhere else, if it means a Marine, who hasn't seen his or her family in over six months, can

come home. While usually I'm kind of a jerk and self-centered, there just seems to be a part of me that is willing to put myself in harm's way just to protect a fellow Marine.

The first thing I thought about when I was told I was being deployed was "Wow, seven months without seeing my wife. That sucks."

That is still my only concern. While I will miss my wife during my trip to Iraq, I know that there are Marines currently in Iraq who haven't seen their wives or family in at least seven months, maybe even a year. The least I could do is willingly separate myself from my family and loved ones.

It is my turn. That is the only way I can describe it. It's simply my turn.

A deployment to Iraq, or anywhere, simply means that Marine will now be expected to complete his or her job in a

different, possibly hazardous environment. It may be in a desert where bomb and mortar threats become an everyday thing, or it could be in a jungle environment where you have to worry about snakes and spiders in your rack.

Either way, you are deployed into a new and a usually unfriendly environment, which usually involves risks. Risks are just a part of our job; just like the McDonalds employees who face grease burns from the fry-o-later or the degrading remarks from an unhappy customer on a daily basis, we sometimes have to face mortar rounds or crazy people who are willing to strap a bomb to their chest and blow up a convoy.

As a service member, dealing with risks is an expected occurrence with what we are asked to do. We all knew these threats existed when we signed our names on the contract and raised our right hands. We have to do what we have to do, no questions asked.

I know during my deployment that my life will be at risk, as will every other service member's who is deployed throughout the world, but I also know that when I am in Iraq, I will be able to keep my mind on my job and focus on the task at hand. I think letters to and from my wife and family will keep me sane, much like in boot camp.

Also like boot camp, I know there will be times when I will want nothing more than to get home and see my family, but I also know I will make it through this and be home again before I realize it, just like in boot camp.

While many Marines may never get the chance to fulfill "their turns," I take mine with a smile because I realize that when my seven months are over, another Marine will smile and take "their turn" overseas because it will be time for me to be with my wife and my family again.

StreetTalk

While there are negative aspects to deployment, what do you see as the positives?



"Obviously, we get to go do our job as Marines. It's what we joined to do." -- Capt. Derek Bibby, VMA-214

"Well, for married Marines, you know what they say, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder.'" -- Staff Sgt. Anthony McCauley, MWSS-371



"Being a leader in a war-time environment is part of your job as a Marine." -- Cpl. Heather Pawlicki, H&HS

"More money, time abroad and you get to do what you joined up for." -- Lance Cpl. Josh Yates, MALS-13



Chapel Call

Hold your tongue

Cmdr. Douglas Smith  
Station Chaplain

Protestant Services:

Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m. worship service. Bible studies available; contact chapel for times.

Catholic Mass:

Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, 9:30 a.m. Mass  
Monday through Thursday - 7 a.m. Mass

For more information, visit the chapel at Building 1176 or call 269-2086.

"My husband and I can't say two words to each other without drawing blood," a woman told her therapist. "The second he walks through the door, we're at each others' throats. Deep down, I know the love's still there, but it seems hopelessly buried."

The therapist listened to her intently, then he reached into his drawer, pulled out a bottle and handed it to her.

"This is special water, holy water from a sacred spring in India," the therapist explained. "For the next week, whenever your husband's about to enter the room, take a drink, hold your tongue and look into his eyes. After a couple of seconds, swallow it. You should notice an improvement in your interactions right away."

The following week, the woman returned to her therapist, proclaiming that the treatment had healed her marriage and that she needed more of this miraculous water -- and fast.

The therapist smiled and revealed that the potent elixir was nothing but store-bought mountain spring water.

This story, written by Derek Rydall, originally appeared in Spirituality & Health Magazine last year. Its value lies in how well it points out that it was not the water -- or even the method of drinking it -- that matters. The fundamentally important thing is this woman's intention and desire to heal her marriage, even though she obviously couldn't see this through all the clutter and noise of the fights she had with her husband when he came home each day. She took that all-important first step when she walked into the therapist's office. Actually, when you get right down to it, if the water would have worked this little miracle on its own, then she almost certainly never would have truly uncovered that deep longing, nor her strength.

I think it's basically true that we each have inner resources to heal broken relationships, whether they're marriage relationships, friendships or involving collaborators. Strengthening and deepening those resources should be a priority.

The views and comments expressed in the opinion articles of the Desert Warrior are the author's individual opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense, the United States Marine Corps or Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. If you have an opinion that you would like to see published, submit your article or letter to michael.a.turner3@usmc.mil or rebecca.newton@usmc.mil or bring it to the Public Affairs Office in Building 852.

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Photos by Cpl. Matthew Rainey

An Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marine cradles Lance Cpl. Ryan Cook, station intermediate maintenance activity ground support technician and simulated victim, during the station's mass casualty drill on the station's flightline Feb. 9. Cook, who was pretending to have severe back burns, claimed that being in the care of a Marine during such a disaster would have comforted him. Victims wore fake wounds and index cards to indicate their simulated injuries and vital signs.



Lance Cpl. Taylor Cox, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron communications technician and simulated victim, lies motionless on the flightline during the station's mass casualty drill Feb. 9. Cox, a Nashville, Tenn. native, was taken away from the scene after he was diagnosed as dead on arrival. The air station was required to host the mass casualty drill before being cleared to host the 2006 Yuma Air Show.

## Emergency personnel pool efforts during casualty exercise

Drill ... from page 1

"We have our response down to a system. Everyone is cool and calm because the more you rush and freak out the longer it tends to take," said Lance Cpl. Tyler J. Charles, ARFF specialist. "We jumped in our truck and we got here as fast as we could. The crew chief takes care of where we're going, so we just get geared up as fast as we can. The crew chief lets us know what kind of (aircraft) we are going out to and what we can prepare for."

Once responders began to arrive at the scene, they started to assess the damage.

"The scene didn't look that bad when we arrived," explained the Buffalo, N.Y., native. "I could see everything from where I was at on the turret (on top of the fire truck). I guess I was expecting more bodies."

With many having already responded to one of the station's past mass casualty drills, some said this year's drill was much more manageable.

"Last year, we didn't do so great because so many things went wrong within the scenario that it was hard for us to deal with everything," said Sears. "I think we did exceptionally

well this year though."

Many pointed to a single piece of gear the station purchased this year as a key to the drill's success.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Hall, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the incident command center and native of Oshkosh, Wis., said that the Provost Marshal's Office mobile command post was used as a valuable single point where emergency responders from outside the station could join emergency responders from within the station to create a more efficient mode of communication.

Those working inside the mobile command post had similar reviews.

"(The mobile command post) was a big help because it eliminated so many of the outside noises that can make communication difficult," said Sears. "The guys in the incident command did a good job making sure that communication was solid."

Overall, those responding to the incident meshed well with each other.

"I thought the civilians and the military worked fairly well together today," said Sears. "We usually

do because we work together so often anyway."

Evaluators were able to see the good and the bad as they looked over the responders from their neutral positions on the flight line.

"They do what they do, and do a very good job of it," said Chuck Beasley, exercise evaluator and training officer for Rural Metro Fire Department. "As with any drill though, we're looking for things that we always can make improvements on. That's the purpose of the drill, to make sure the agencies can work together."

There is at least one obstacle that Marines and sailors will need to overcome in the event of a mass casualty incident.

"I think if this was a real incident, we would be pulling people off the street because we are running on minimum manpower. All the same, I saw a lot of people working together as a team to make sure everyone received the medical attention they needed," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Justin Bramlette, Branch Medical Clinic corpsman from Santa Maria, Calif. "I think these drills are good for pointing out the areas where we need improvement as a unit."



Four Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marines carry Lance Cpl. Brian Colby, a simulated victim, away from the wreckage to the triage area for medical treatment during the station's mass casualty drill on the station flightline Feb. 9. Colby was diagnosed and treated for a broken leg and lacerations.

An Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Marine mans a hose in front of a simulated victim and Search and Rescue crew chief Lance Cpl. Eric Eskildsen to extinguish the blaze of a downed aircraft during the station's mass casualty drill on the flightline Feb. 9. Eskildsen, a Phoenix native, was simulating someone who had a broken jaw and was choking on his own blood.



Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines work diligently to treat simulated victims brought to their triage area on the station flightline as an evaluator looks on during the station's mass casualty drill Feb. 9. Evaluators were spread out amongst the action to gauge the emergency responders' actions and find areas for potential improvement.



K-9 ... from page 1



Photos by Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Following the speed test, the Marines finished the demonstration by performing one of their new tricks, a double dog bite. Instead of just having one dog chase a suspect down, they released two dogs after a fleeing suspect.

"We tried to do as much as we can with what we had," said Prudhome, a native of Bartlesville, Okla. "We try to bring all the dogs out whenever we get the chance. They can all do the same thing, but each one does it a little differently."

Sgt. James Campion, kennel master, PMO, said the handlers put on the demonstrations to give people an understanding of what they do.

"You don't have to be afraid of military or police dogs because they can be friendly," said Campian, a native of Cape

Coral, Fla. "This is good for the dogs because it exposes them to being around many people, and this informs the public (about) exactly what we do. For us, this is just another training day, except we are at a school and we are explaining what we do to people."

Officer Alan Ienn, school resource officer, Centennial Middle School, who provides law enforcement-related education Tuesdays and Thursdays, spends his time at the school trying to bridge the gap between students and law enforcement personnel.

"Every year, I like to have one or two demonstrations for the students," said Ienn. "It's a good break from the classroom. This is also a good way to get them excited about the next class."

Ienn said exhibitions like the one the Marines put on help students understand that law enforcement people are just like them.

"We all like coming out here and putting on demonstrations," said Prudhome. "It lets people know what we do and it gets us out in the community."

As much as the handlers like giving the demonstrations, the students also appreciated the time and effort of the Marines.

"I thought the dog show was cool," said Clark. "It was like nothing I have ever seen before. This is definitely something I



would like to see again and if we can't see it again this year, then hopefully next year's students can."

(Left) Cpl. Elijah S. Prudhome, K-9 handler, Provost Marshal's Office, receives a bite from Bernie, military working dog, during a demonstration at Centennial Middle School Feb. 8. The K-9 Marines were invited to the school to provide law enforcement-related education for the eighth graders of the school.

(Below) Lance Cpl. Justin Shettleroe, K-9 handler, Provost Marshal's Office, directs his dog Bernie, military working dog, after passing through a tunnel as a part of the obstacle course for a K-9 demonstration at Centennial Middle School Feb. 8. The K-9 handlers held the demonstrations for the public to give people an understanding of what they do.

Expo ... from page 1



Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian J. Holloran

Capt. Charles B. Buckley, pilot for Marine Attack Squadron 513, explains to Lance Cpl. Jeff S. Belyeu and his wife Tressie where Al Asad is in Iraq and shows them both satellite photos of the base during the pre-deployment expo Feb. 7 at the Sonoran Pueblo Consolidated Club. Buckley was located at the operations booth and was tasked with the job of showing the Marines what Al Asad Air Base has to offer the Marines.

The Marine Aircraft Group 13's chaplain had a table set up to show Marines how to strengthen their marriages and to show those families that the chaplain is there for them.

TRICARE representatives were also on hand also to talk to spouses and make sure they knew that the spouses had the proper information in case the spouse leaves town. TRICARE also offered helpful tips on what to do about hospital bills and other problems that may arise. There were also many volunteer agencies on hand to give spouses ideas of organizations they can join while their spouse is deployed to help make the time go by faster.

Senecal, who's husband is on his sixth deployment, said, "We wanted to show the spouses that even though their husbands or wives are in another country, they aren't alone. There are literally dozens of volunteer networks in the area that can help make the time go by smoothly."

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society was also there to give the spouses the resources needed in case an emergency should arise while the spouse is deployed.

The expo was a way to bring the families closer to those who can help, said Austin

"We decided to hold an expo instead of a brief because events like these are more effective in regards to passing along information," said 1st Lt. Juliet H. Calvin, family readiness officer for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. "It allows the Marines and families the opportunity to focus on different areas as needed. The expo style offers them flexibility."

"The main purpose behind this expo was to show Marines and their families some of the resources the stay-behind spouse has at his or her disposal," said Austin. "I want to make sure the spouses understand that even though their Marines are not here, the Marine Corps will still take care of them."

# Advertisements



# Work for warriors now available

Michelle Volkmann  
Yuma Sun Staff Writer

In each household, there are certain jobs that only a Marine, sailor or soldier can do. It may be washing the car, painting a bedroom or mowing the lawn. And that’s right, only a member of the military can do it.

Or maybe the person who needs the job done prefers to pay a military man or woman do it.

One Oceanside, Calif., couple launched a Web site, <http://www.hirepatriots.com>, last year with this exact idea in mind.

“(It’s) to express thanks and gratitude in a practical way,” said Mark Baird, co-creator.

Baird, along with his wife, Tori, were in Yuma Feb. 8 talking about the Web site. It’s already a success in the San Diego area, Mark said.

The goal is that this Web site makes it easy for Yuma-based military members to make some extra cash in their spare time. It’s also an opportunity for a Yuma resident to hire a “clean cut” Marine to do the work and thank them for their military service, Tori said.

The job can be any sort of chore around the house, yard or office, Mark said.

“It’s a simple Web site, but it serves its purpose,” he said.

There is no charge to post a job. The Web site also features



Photo by Terry Ketron/Yuma Sun

**Mark and Tori Baird, creators of <http://www.hirepatriots.com>, pose during a visit to the Yuma area Feb. 8. The couple from Oceanside, Calif., created to Web site last year to help military personnel in San Diego find full-time and one-day jobs. The site is set up to assist honorably-discharged military personnel and military spouses as well as active duty service members.**

a section for people looking for full-time jobs. Military spouses can post their resumes there and companies can review them for free.

“We fully realize the spouses are serving too,” Mark said.

During the holiday season, people posted invitations for dinner at their home. That has been expanded to include inviting a Marine to go to a baseball game or movie.

The Web site searches job posts for every military installation in the United States, so people

in Yuma could easily post jobs they need to get done and Yuma Marines or soldiers could answer those ads.

As of Wednesday morning, not one ad was posted. Mark said it’s because nobody in Yuma knows about it. That’s why the Bairds were meeting with groups in Yuma on Wednesday. They are hoping to meet with more groups in the future.

But Yuma Marines had already heard about it through their counterparts on the West Coast.

“We get e-mails from Marines

in Yuma saying, ‘When are you coming to Yuma, all of the jobs are posted for San Diego’ ” Mark said.

The Bairds think it will be a successful Web site in Yuma.

“In Oceanside, it’s been a very helpful service for seniors,” Tori said.

The types of jobs range from people needing leaves raked to installing their DVD player.

“Often, they have a piece of pie and a glass of milk waiting after (the Marines) finish the job,” Tori said.



Photo by Cpl. Matthew Rainey

## Another brick in the wall

**Pfc. Noah Hitz, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 combat engineer and native of Portland, Ore., applies mortar to a wall in preparation for another block to be added Feb. 10. The MWSS-371 Marines are fencing in a future Marine Corps Community Services maintenance vehicle lot located next to the gas station and auto hobby shop on station.**

# Advertisements



# AT EASE

## Looking for love

Gilbert, or “Gilly” as his friends at the Humane Society of Yuma, Ariz., call him, is looking for a home where he will be protected. He is a 4-year-old chihuahua mix and doesn’t mind children or other dogs. Gilbert is kennel trained and a people-oriented lap dog. For more information about adopting Gilbert, call 782-1621.



Photo courtesy of Humane Society of Yuma, Ariz.

*The Humane Society of Yuma, Ariz., has dozens of dogs and cats in need of good homes. Cost of adoptions include immunizations, spaying or neutering the animal, a free veterinary checkup and 30 days of pet insurance. The society also needs volunteers and donations. They currently need cleaning supplies, bedding, kitty litter, food and monetary donations. For more information about helping the Humane Society of Yuma, call 782-1621.*

## MCCS Events

### Youth volunteer project

The Station Youth Center will hold a volunteer project Friday from 7-10 p.m. Teens and preteens will be helping to set up for the youth center’s Mardis Gras party. For more information, call 269-5390/3659.

### Theater special

The station theater is offering a special deal for February where service members who pay for five admissions get a sixth free. The theater has cards to be stamped to earn credit for the special. For more information, call 269-2358.

### Free Turbo Tax

Marine and Family Services is offering free tax filing with Turbo Tax through Military One Source. Refunds can be accessed at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> 24-hours a day using step-by-step instructions. For more information, call 269-2425.

### Drop-in packets

The Child Development Center needs parents and guardians to complete new drop-in packets for 2006. The packet includes a USDA form and a medical power of attorney for the child. Parents who completed the forms in November or December have fulfilled the 2006 requirements. For more information, call 269-3234.

### Sunday brunch

The Sonoran Pueblo now serves brunch every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$9 for club members and \$11 for non-members. For more information, call 269-5390/3659.

### Childcare availability

The Child Development Center has free childcare available for spouses of military members who are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. Parents must call in advance to reserve a spot for Tuesday or Thursday night from 6-9 p.m. or the first Saturday of each month from 6-11 p.m. For more information, call 269-3234.

*Marine Corps Community Services’ 411 Infoline is available for information on the go. Just dial 269-1411 to receive updated information and contact numbers for MCCS services and events. The line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

## In Theater

### Tonight

7 p.m. Memoirs of a Geisha (PG-13)

### Friday

6 p.m. The Producers (PG-13)

9 p.m. Rumor Has It (PG-13)

### Saturday

4 p.m. Cheaper by the Dozen II (PG)

7 p.m. Fun with Dick and Jane (PG-13)

### Sunday

5 p.m. Memoirs of a Geisha (PG-13)

### Monday

7 p.m. The Family Stone (PG-13)

### Tuesday

7 p.m. Fun with Dick and Jane (PG-13)

### Wednesday

7 p.m. The Producers (PG-13)

**Movies are subject to change; call 269-2358 or visit <http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org.TheaterSchedules.htm>.**

## News to Use

### Military spouse scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for National Military Family Association Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships. Current or surviving spouses of any active duty, reserve or retired service member -- to include the Coast Guard, Army National Guard and Air National Guard -- studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school may apply. The scholarships are usually around \$1,000 and may be used for fees, tuition, books and school rooming and boarding. Applications must be submitted by April 15 and will only be accepted when submitted online at <http://www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006>.

### City of Yuma census

The City of Yuma is attempting to reach anyone who was not counted in the 2005 special census. City residents who were not contacted by census officials are encouraged to provide their name and address to the city. All information is treated confidentially and will only be provided to the U.S. Census Bureau for the purpose of calculating the city population. Without an accurate count of city residents, Yuma will not rate its fair share of state and federal funding. Submissions can be made by e-mailing [countme@ci.yuma.az.us](mailto:countme@ci.yuma.az.us), calling 373-5180 or mailing the information to Count Me, P.O. Box 13013, Yuma, AZ 85366-3013.

### Navy advancement exams

The station will hold Navy-wide March 2006 Cycle 191 advancement exams for petty officer third class through petty officer first class in March. The exams for E-6 will be administered March 2, E-5s will test March 9 and E-4 exams are scheduled for March 16. All exams will be held at 7:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall of the station chapel. For more information, call 269-3112.

### Passport application change

All applications for no-fee passports must now be completed online at <http://www.travel.state.gov>. Handwritten and typed applications will no longer be accepted by the Department of State. Passport applications that have already been received will be processed as is. Application processing and other required documentation remains the same for the Traffic Management Office. For more information, call TMO at 269-2313.

### NMCRS scholarships

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has several scholarship programs available for active duty service members and the families of active duty, retired and deceased Marines and sailors. The Vice Admiral E. P. Travers Scholarship and Loan Program provides up to \$2,000 in scholarships and \$3,000 in interest-free loans to the children and spouses of active duty and retired service members. The Children of Deceased Service Members Scholarship Program is available to the children of service members who died while on active duty or retired status. The Admiral Mike Boorda Program offers grants of up to \$2,000 a year to active duty service members who have been accepted to either the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program or the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program. The scholarships and loans are needs based and require applications to be turned in by March 1. For more information, visit <http://www.nmcrs.org>, call (703) 696-4960, or stop by the NMCRS office in Building 645, room 101.

### Frame-a-thon

The Yuma chapter of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with a frame-a-thon Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Experience is not necessary, certified builders will be on hand at the corner of 18th Drive and 27th Street to supervise. Lunch, water, tools and protective equipment will be provided, but volunteers are welcome to bring their own. Habitat for Humanity depends upon volunteers to provide interest-free mortgages and quality housing for local families. The families, in turn, help build their homes and volunteer to help others in the community. For more information, contact Petty Officer 1st Class Denis Lawrence at 269-6588 or [denis.lawrence@usmc.mil](mailto:denis.lawrence@usmc.mil)

### Religious seminar

Retired Army chaplain Col. Ryder Stephens will speak at the Yuma Adult Center, 160 East 1st St., Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. His “Peace and Reconciliation from War and Terrorism through Prayer” seminar will explore moving beyond historical and personal conflict by drawing on his experiences during his 23 years on active

## Liberty Call

duty. Free child care will be provided. For more information, contact Janell Hinsley at 373-6460.

### Arborist training

Sign up is open for certified arborist training presented by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office and Arizona Community Tree Council. The program, which will run each Friday from April 14th through May 19th, will include classes on tree biology, water management and tree and soil relations and is designed to prepare personnel for the arborist certification exam being administered June 3. Seating for the training is limited. Applications are available through the cooperative extension office and the City of Yuma Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, contact Tina McKeand at 373-5000, extension 5283, or the cooperative extension office at 726-3904.

### Service academies conference

Arizona Senator John Kyl will be present for the 2006 Service Academies Conference Feb. 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Cibola High School, 4100 West 20th St. Representatives of the Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and naval and U.S. military academies will explain the academic, career and military opportunities each school offers. Congressional staff will also be present to explain the required Congressional application and nomination process. To learn more about the free conference, call (602) 840-1891 or visit <http://kyl.senate.gov/rsvp>

### OSC bingo night

The Officers’ Spouses’ Club will host Basket Bingo March 3 at the Sonoran Pueblo. All ranks and civilians are welcome. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance,

available from the spouse of each squadron’s commanding officer, or \$20 at the door. There will be 15 games and five prize drawings. All proceeds will benefit the OSC Scholarship Fund. For more information, contact Audrey Reynolds at [audreyr1@yahoo.com](mailto:audreyr1@yahoo.com).

### Space camp scholarships

Applications are being accepted for the 2006 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship. The scholarship covers all costs for the five-day program. All children of active duty service members in grades 6-9 are eligible. Deadline for applying is April 3. More information can be found at <http://www.militarychild.org/Scholarship.asp>.

### Blues and jazz review

The Yuma Art Center will host a blues and jazz review Friday at 7 p.m. Presented by the Cultural Council of Yuma, the cabaret show will present the musical history of blues and jazz with singer and song writer Yvonne Brooks. Cost is \$10 at the door. For more information, call 373-5202.



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# Service members give Yuma residents a chance to see the big picture

Cpl. Matthew Rainey  
Combat Correspondent

Military photographs taken by everyday service members were on display Friday night at the Yuma



Photos by Cpl. Matthew Rainey

Sgt. Jemmsy Alvarez, Combat Camera photographer, stands next to his first-place photo, "Providing Security," which hangs in the Yuma Art Center Museum in downtown Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 10. The exhibit, "On Duty: Photos from Iraq and Afghanistan," will run through April 17. Many Yuma residents visited the gallery to enjoy the perspective of service members overseas.

Arts Center in downtown Yuma, Ariz.

The theme for the evening, "On Duty: Photos from Iraq and Afghanistan," gave service members a reason to dig through their overseas photo archives for a photo worth a thousand words, and pos-

sibly a cash prize as well.

"The idea to host a photo show highlighting first-person experiences in the Persian Gulf region was a natural for a daily newspaper in a strong military town," said Lori Stofft, the photo show coordinator. "The Sun's business is reporting the news, whether it takes place close to home or on the other side of the world, and photographs are a big part of telling the story."

"Active-duty men and women, private contractors and reservists with ties to this area are capturing images all over the world," explained Stofft. "This is a sampling of their experiences and impressions, illustrating how strong the connection is to a land very distant from ours."

Some people gazed at service members' photos because they desired to see the whole picture regarding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, untainted by media spin.

"We see a lot about the military on TV. Not much of what we see is very good, but we know there is more to it than they say (on the TV)," said Zell Miller, Yuma resident. "It's nice to be able to see what some of our troops have seen."

The ability to see through service members' eyes is what drew many of the people in attendance to the show.

"I came because I wanted to see what they have seen," said Ylonda Thompson, a local art enthusiast. "These photos are awesome."

Sgt. Jemmsy Alvarez, Combat Camera photographer and contributing artist, agreed that many of the photos had distinct qualities about them.



Cecilo and Kay Paiz, Yuma residents, gaze at a cluster of photos taken by service members displayed at the Yuma Art Center in downtown Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 10. "On Duty: Photos from Iraq and Afghanistan," was a contest open only to service members who have served abroad recently.

"The photos here are good, and there's a lot of diversity in the settings," said Alvarez, an Orlando native. "A lot of the photos here are artsy and have solid photographic technique."

Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma led the way by claiming all three top spots in the photo competition.

Master Sgt. Richard Lehron, Combat Service Support Company 133 and native of Steubenville, Ohio, claimed the show's top honor, the award of "Best of Show," with his photo titled "Evening Prayer." Lehron took his photo of a lone Marine kneeling to pray as the sun was setting while Lehron was deployed to Camp Coyote, Kuwait,

as part of the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

"It's most unusual, but it's a good-looking photo," Miller commented about Lehron's photo.

Alvarez took the next highest award with his photo, "Providing Security." Alvarez snapped "Providing Security" during his time in Afghanistan with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"It reminded me of the movie, 'We were Soldiers,'" said Thompson about Alvarez's photo.

Alvarez maintained that as a military photographer, he is constantly in a position to take a great photo.

"It was a photo of opportunity,"

said Alvarez. "It's nothing special, just a sample of the same thing I do every day."

Capt. Ravi Dharnidharka, Marine Attack Squadron 311 AV-8B Harrier II pilot and native of Stockton, Calif., captured second place with "Mission," a photo he took while he was flying above Iraq.

Dharnidharka's photo featured an airborne harrier with an American flag in the foreground, which kept many viewers asking aloud, "How did he do that?"

All of the photo entries were judged by the photo staff at The Sun newspaper, said Stofft.

The photo exhibit will continue to run at the Yuma Art Center until April 17.

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Photos by Cpl. Giovanni Lobello



(Above) Cpl. Brian J. Budd, marimba player, Drum and Bugle Corps, practices playing the new music Feb. 8 at Field 425 here for the upcoming show season. The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps' first performance of the year will be Feb. 25 at the station's 44th Annual Yuma Air Show.

(Left) Members of the Silent Drill Platoon rehearse their drill routine as a platoon Feb. 8 here. The Battle Color Detachment is comprised of "The Commandant's Own" Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard from Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington, D.C.

# Battle Color Detachment storms station

**Cpl. Giovanni Lobello**  
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment arrived on station Feb. 6 for training that will last until March 3.

The Battle Color Detachment is comprised of "The Commandant's Own" Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon and the Marine Corps Color Guard from Marine Barracks 8th and I, Washington, D.C.

The time spent in Yuma marks the initial training for new members of the Battle Color Detachment.

The Silent Drill Platoon spends its time here molding new members, as well as reacquainting last year's members with their rifles. The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps uses this time to learn the new music for the upcoming show season, while both the Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Platoon focus on perfecting their new drill movements.

The Silent Drill Platoon, known for performing without verbal commands and using operational 10.5 pound

M-1 Garand rifle, with fixed bayonet, spends approximately 13 hours a day, seven days a week practicing, including physical training.

"We are here to get to the point where we can do a show in front of thousands of people," said Cpl. Tim Maurer, drill master, Silent Drill Platoon. "While we are here in Yuma, the Marines don't get much liberty because our purpose here is to train. Once we start the show season, the Marines will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy their surroundings."

A Silent Drill School student, which are the Marines hoping to be a part of this years Silent Drill Platoon, endorsed the platoon's vigorous training schedule.

"The training right now is very hard, but at the end, it'll all be worth it," said Lance Cpl. Daniel Anderson, student, Silent Drill School. "This is a very prestigious team and I feel lucky to have been presented with this opportunity."

In order for new members to make the team, they have to perform well

on what is known as "Challenge Day."

If the new members perform better than their peers, they will earn a spot on the 24-man Silent Drill Platoon.

"The day is a surprise so the new members never know when that day will come and are always ready," said Maurer.

The Marines who perform the best on Challenge Day are chosen to be on the Silent Drill Platoon for the next year, added Maurer. While the Silent Drill Platoon practices making their technique flawless, Drum and Bugle Corps also learns its new drill routine and music.

"We are here to get it all together," said Sgt. Clint Owens, soprano bugler, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps. "First, we learn the new drill movements. Then, we learn the music for the show, which is followed by putting the music and marching together."

The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps will be leaving the station March 3, when it begin its West Coast tour.

The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps' first performance of the year will be Feb. 25 at the station's 44th Annual Yuma Air Show.

"We are very excited to be opening for the air show," said Owens. "Normally, we close a show and we are the last thing the crowd sees. So now, we will be setting the tone for the rest of the show for a change."

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment will also perform their Battle Color Ceremony Feb. 28 on station at 3 p.m. and at Kofa High School at 7:30 p.m.



(Left) Lance Cpl. Brian Whitmarsh, Silent Drill School student, practices drilling with his M-1 Garand rifle with fixed bayonet, which weighs 10.5 pounds, Feb. 8 here. New members of the school have the opportunity to join the Silent Drill Platoon based on their performance on "Challenge Day."



Staff Sgt. Gregory Holder, baritone player, Drum and Bugle Corps, practices the new marching and music routine for the upcoming year Feb. 8 at Field 425 here. The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment will perform their Battle Color Ceremony Feb. 28 on station at 3 p.m. and at Kofa High School at 7:30 p.m.



Cpl. Tim Maurer, drill master, Silent Drill Platoon, aligns Marines before beginning drill with the entire platoon Feb. 8 here. The Silent Drill Platoon, known for performing without verbal commands and using operational 10.5 pound M-1 Garand rifles with fixed bayonet, spends approximately 13 hours a day, seven days a week practicing, including physical training.



# AROUND THE CORPS

## First ‘Raptor’ crew chiefs graduate

### Six Marines from activated Osprey squadron pass course, become base for future of Osprey, aviation programs



Photos by Lance Cpl. Samuel E. White

Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Stinson, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204 crew chief, holds up his newly-acquired wings after graduating as one of the first six activated MV-22 Osprey squadron crew chiefs at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., Jan. 25.

**Lance Cpl. Samuel E. White**  
Marine Corps Air Station New River

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C.** -- Two years ago, six men made the decision to become United States Marines. The future Marines had little in common; some were still in high school planning for spring break and their school prom, while others worked odd jobs. Most of them did not know what an MV-22 Osprey was.

On Jan. 25, through hard work and dedication, these Marines earned another significant emblem - their aircrew wings. These Marines became the first MV-22 Osprey crew chief graduating class of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204.

“I never thought I’d be where I am today,” said Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Stinson, VMMT-204 crew chief and one of the six graduates. “It’s an honor to be one of the first graduates for the Osprey crew chief program.”

“Think of all the people (they) went to high school with,” said Col. Joel P. Kane, VMMT-204 commanding officer. “I don’t care if they went off to Harvard or Yale or Brown or are studying to be a brain surgeon, none of them will probably ever have the responsibility that (these) six Marines will have.

“Imagine someone saying to you, when you were in high school, you are going to become a crew chief and certify safe for

flight the MV-22, an \$80 million aircraft. The amount of money and the number of lives, for a high school or college graduate, is a huge responsibility,” said Kane.

Certification as one of the first crew chiefs to graduate from VMMT-204 might seem like a lot of pressure to handle but, to the newest crew chiefs, it’s just another day in their life in the Corps. The graduation of these Marines is not only a significant event for the Osprey program and the graduates, but also to Marine aviation.

“This is a big deal for us as a squadron. This class is the first that we’ve put through since we have returned to flight last October,” said Kane. “We’re pretty excited about the graduates making it

through our current training program.”

Following an arduous schedule that took the Marines through a nine-month-long course, the graduates are ready to put their newly acquired skills to the test against the future of the aviation wing, said Kane.

Within the next few months, three of the six Marines will stay with the ‘Raptors.’ The other half of the graduating class will transition to the future Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, which will stand up in March.

“I’m eager to get out there and join up with my new squadron,” said Lance Cpl. Yauncey A. Long, a future VMMT-263 crew chief. “I just hope I don’t let the Marines, my leaders or the Corps down.”



The first MV-22 crew chiefs to graduate from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204 show off their newly-acquired wings while standing in front of an Osprey at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., Jan. 25. Three will stay with VMMT-204 and three will transfer to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263 when it is commissioned in March.

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# SPORTS

## Station sailor runs her way to New York

Cpl. Matthew Rainey  
Combat Correspondent

One of the station’s fastest runners shined at a recent Marine Corps cross country event.

Out of the station’s few sailors, Leslie Kindling flew past her fellow competitors on her way to the finish line and she raised a few eyebrows doing it.

“She finished fifth at the All-Marine Cross Coun-



Photos by Cpl. Matthew Rainey

try Championships Dec. 10,” said John Ruiz, station cross country team coach. “Her top-five finish is the best finish by a Navy runner in an All-Marine Cross Country Championship event.”

As a result of her performance on a big stage, Kindling has been selected to participate on the 2006 All-Navy Cross Country team, said Ruiz, a native of Abernathy, Texas. This team will be running in the Armed Forces Cross Country Championships. The race will be conducted as a part of the 2006 U.S.A. Track and Field Winter National Cross Country Championships, in New York City., from today through Monday.

“She’ll be competing against the top U.S. runners,” explained Ruiz. “This is the same race where they pick the runners for the United States World Cross Country team. This upcoming race will give her exposure and experience at the national level.”

What makes Kindling’s selection to the All-Navy team amazing is that she has practically come out of nowhere and burst onto the cross country scene.

“This is my first cross country season ever,” said Kindling, a former track and field pentathlete at Case Western Reserve University.

Once she arrived in Yuma, it took a pair of staff sergeants one year to convince Kindling that she should come out for the team.

“They told me I could help the team, so after repeated asking, I eventually gave it a shot,” said Kindling, a native of Erie, Pa. “I didn’t have any expectations for the season because it’s been a long time since I’ve really been competitive, but now I’m back.”

As Kindling’s coach, Ruiz is excited about Kindling’s future in running.

“With this being the first year she has run cross country, she has unlimited potential,” said Ruiz. “We have just skimmed the surface with her because I didn’t know what she was capable of and I didn’t want to train her too hard.”

While many people hate the idea of running miles on end, Kindling relishes the idea of lacing up her shoes and running through the desert.

“It helps that I love to run,” said Kindling. “There

are some good competitors on the team that always want to run a little faster than the person next to them. It’s so beneficial and motivating to have other people to run with. I’ve improved just by having others out there.”

The entire station cross country team, under the leadership of Ruiz, is thriving in just its second year.

“Last year, the first year that the station had a cross country team, we finished fifth,” said Ruiz. “This year, as a team, we finished third overall, and we were competing against more teams.”

The team finished 1 minute, 20 seconds behind the first place team, despite missing its top runner, Ruiz, due to an injury he sustained in September.



All-Navy cross country team member Leslie Kindling and station cross country teammate Curtis Belfield embark on a training run near the Marine Aircraft Group 13 headquarters on station Feb. 10. In her first year of running cross country, Kindling has improved rapidly, which she attributes to her teammates’ encouragement.

But those kinds of finishes don’t happen just by wishful thinking.

“Leading up to the All-Marine Championships race, we were running sixty to eighty miles per week,” said Ruiz. “We’ll start training again in June by running twenty to thirty miles per week on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. We frequently run a canal that goes from 32nd Street out to Cocopah Casino. We run pretty early, around 6:30 a.m., to beat the heat.”

The team always welcomes station personnel interested in running with them.

“I think people have more talent than they think,” said Kindling. “Maybe they will find a new one in running like I have.”

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